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MISCELLANEOUS.

MAY MARTIN: OR THE MONEY DIGGERS.

A GREEN MOUNTAIN TALE.

BY D. P. THOMPSON OF MONTPELIER, VT.

In one of those rough and secluded towns, situated in the heart of the Green Mountains, is a picturesque little valley, containing perhaps, something over two thousand acres of improvable land, formerly known in that section of the country by the appellation of *The Harwood Settlement*, so called from the name of the original proprietor of the valley. As if formed by some giant hand, literally scooping out the solid mountain and moulding it into shape and proportion, the whole valley presents the exact resemblance of an oval basin whose sides are composed of a continuous ridge of lofty hills bordering it around, and broken only by two narrow outlets at its northerly and southerly extremities. The eastern part of this valley is covered by one of those transparent ponds, which are so beautifully characteristic of Vermontine scenery, laying in the form of a crescent, and extending along beneath the closely encircling mountains on the east nearly the whole length of the interior landscape, forever mirroring up from its darkly bright surface, or faintly or vividly, as cloud or sunshine may prevail, the motley groups of the sombre forest, when the more slender and softer tinted beech and maple seemed struggling for a place among the rough and shaggy forms of the sturdy hemlock, peering head over head, up the steeply ascending cliffs of the woody precipice, while here and there, at distant intervals, towering high over all, stands the princely pine, waving its majestic head in solitary grandeur, a striking but melancholy type of the aboriginal Indian still occasionally found lingering among us, the only remaining representative of a once powerful race, which have receded before the march of civilized men, now destined no more to flourish the lords of the plain and the mountain. This pond discharges its surplus waters at its southern extremity in a pure stream of considerable size, which here, as if in wild glee at its escape from the embrace of its parent waters, leaps at once, from a state of the most untroubled tranquillity, over a ledgy barrier, and, with noisy reverberations, goes bounding along from cliff to cliff, in a series of romantic cascades, down a deep ravine, till the lessening echoes are lost in the sinuosities of the outlet of the valley. From the western shore of this sheet of water the land rises in gentle undulations, and with a gradual ascent, back to the foot of the mountains, which here, as on every other side, rear their ever-green summits to the clouds, standing around this vast fortress of nature as huge sentinels posted along the lofty outworks to battle with the careering hurricanes that burst in fury on their immovable sides, and arrest and receive on their own unscathed heads the shafts of the lightning descending for its victims to the valley below, while they cheerily bandy from side to side the voicy echoes of the thunder peal with their mighty brethren of the opposite rampart.

Nor is the beauty of the minor features of the landscape surpassed by the bold grandeur of the main outlines. The interior of the valley, for miles in extent, uniformly sloping to the eastward, is checkered with beautiful alterations of town and woodland, forever richly clothed in their seasons with the way and lighter verdure of the cultivated field, or the deep-tinted and exuberant foliage of the forest. While a thousand gushing rills come dancing down from the surrounding heights to meet the morning sun, and glitter in his first smile, as he looks in over the eastern barrier on his return from his diurnal circuit.

At the period of which we are about to write, the rude dwellings of the small band of settlers, who then inhabited the valley, were scattered at different intervals along the road, which, entering from the south, wound round the westerly margin of the pond and passed off through the interlapping mountains towards Canada. Of these dwellings the largest, and most respectable in appearance, was the one situated in the most southerly part of the valley. The old log house

of the pioneer, still standing in the back-ground surrounded by weeds and briars, had here given place to a new framed house of one story, which, together with the appearances of the buildings, and the well cultivated grounds adjoining, betokened considerable degree of thrift and comfort in the circumstances of the owner.

Towards night on a beautiful summer's day, at the time we have chosen for the opening of our tale, a young man and maiden might have been seen leaving the door of the cottage we have described, and leisurely taking their way across the pasture, in a direction to intersect the main road at the termination of the clearing on the south. The first named of this couple, apparently of the age of about twenty-five years in the full bloom of vigorous manhood. His hardy, robust, and well formed frame was graced with an open frank and highly intelligent countenance, indicative at once of an ingenious disposition, a light heart and the consciousness of a strong hand, with mental capacity to govern and render it available—exhibiting in his person a fine sample of the early immigrant settlers of Vermont, who were almost universally men of uncommon physical powers, and generally of moral qualities which quailed at no ordinary obstacles—a fact attributable, probably, neither to chance nor invigorating effects of their climate, but to the natural operation of these very powers and qualities themselves, which only could incite to forsake the ease and comfort of an old settlement, with the certainty of entering hardships in a new one and enduring trials from which men of common mould would shrink with dismay. His fair companion was evidently quite youthful. Her person was rather slightly formed, but of closely knit and beautifully rounded proportions, which were indebted for their almost faultless symmetry to none of the crippling arts of fashion, but solely to the hand of unrestrained nature, giving a free and graceful motion, and a step as light and agile as that of the young fawn of the mountains among which she was reared. The complexion of her face, however, was rather too dark to be delicate, or to give full effect to the rich brown tresses that encircled her high forehead and fell profusely in natural ringlets down her finely arched neck. And her features also, though regular, were remarkable only for the wonderful vivacity of their expression; though now, as she and her companion pursued their way from the house some rods in silence, her mind seemed absent, or absorbed by some care, her looks were quiescent and unmeaning, and her dark blue eye seemed sleeping in abstraction—but now her lover spoke and a thousand variant emotions came flitting over her countenance—a smile of peculiar sweetness played on her lips, her cheeks were wreathed in dimples, and her eyes fairly sparkled with a light of the soul that seemed at the instant to have taken perch within them.

'May,' said he, 'May my girl, do you know that I have invited you out for this little walk only to bid you adieu, and that too for a considerable season?'

'No!—surely!' replied the girl pausing in her steps, and looking up into the manly feature of her lover with an expression of lively concern—'surely, you are not going your journey so soon?'

'Yes, May, I have a horse in readiness at the village below, and thither I propose walking to-night, to be prepared for an early start for Massachusetts in the morning.'

'And how soon will you return?'

'Perhaps I may be absent nearly two months.'

'So very long?'

'Most probably—my business is such as may lead to delays—but why so concerned, May? this one more absence and then—'

'Yes, yes, I know what you would say, but why is even this absence necessary?'

'It is but right that you should know, May, and I will tell you—it is now nearly a year since I contracted for the land on which I made a pitch in this settlement. The time for a payment when I am to receive a title has nearly arrived; and I am going to gather up the little pittance of property which I earned with my own hands, and left invested in my native state, when I departed for the wild woods of Vermont, and which I now need to enable me to meet this payment.'

'It is right then, I presume, that you go, but yet I dread your absence.'

'Dread! I hardly dared hope that my presence was so much valued, May.'

'How vain now!—no, no, I did not mean that.'

'I have other reasons for dreading your absence.'

'And what can they be, dearest May?'

'I have often thought I would never disturb your feelings by the story of my little troubles.'

'Troubles! and not tell me May—you surprise and disturb me already—to whom should you confide them, if not to me?'

'True, Mr. Ashley, true, if you take the interest in me which you profess—to you certainly I should any thing happen to me in your absence in consequence of their existence I should wish perhaps I had apprised you of the difficulties which beset me—'

'O tell me, tell me, May.'

'I will—You already know that Mr. and Mrs. Martin, with whom I have lived from a small child, are not my father and mother by relationship, and I am sorry to say they are not more so by their treatment—often, too often, have they made me to feel that I am the child of other parents.'

'Why, surely you never even hinted such a thing before, and I never suspected anything of the kind. They certainly have appeared sufficiently kind to you in my presence.'

'O yes, in your presence; and even when you are in the neighborhood they are more cautious in their cruelty, but as soon as you are fairly out of the settlement for any considerable absence, I soon am made aware of it by other means than the void in my feelings at the loss of your society. You have been told of a pedlar who undertook to be my suitor the year before you came here.—That was their work; and I never shall forget their meanness in trying to unite me to that vagabond, to get me out of the country, as I have often thought.'

'But what reason can they have for such a treatment, and in what manner is it usually exercised?'

'I am not sensible of ever have given them any cause, and I cannot even guess at the reason.—As regards the manner, it is no personal violence that I complain of; but is it much less painful to be insulted, despised—to see, know, and made to feel that I am hated?'

'No, May, no. This is indeed news to me, but it must not, shall not be. I will this moment return and see them, and secure you a kinder treatment, or, as sure as my name is William Ashley, their house this day ceases to be your home.'

'Oh no! not for the world! not a step, not a word, if you love me, not a word to them of what I have told you. I would not leave them at this period, I can bear with them a few months longer, and then—then, who knows, she continued hesitating and blushing as she dashed aside the tear that had gathered in her eye at the recital of her wrongs, and looked up archly to her lover, 'who knows whether I am then to find a better home?'

'Who knows? Ah, May, let the time for proving this be arrive; for, by all that is true and sacred in honor, or in love, I swear.'

'O no, no, no!' interrupted the girl with returning vivacity, and with that playful tact, with which woman so well knows how to quell the storm she has raised in the less versatile bosom of man. 'O no, no, don't swear at me—I have enough of that at home.'

The lovers, having now arrived at the end of their walk, seated themselves amidst a cluster of low evergreens on the brink of a high bank, to indulge a while, before the final adieu, in that luxury of love, the interchange of the mutual pledges of affection on the eve of separation.—The scenery of the spot was well calculated to enhance the natural interest of the moment, and hallow it to their feelings. Some twenty or thirty feet below, and almost directly under their feet, the road, just emerging from the woods, wound along on a scanty jut, or shelf of the hill-side, which immediately beyond, formed a lofty precipice terminating in the stream, that rushed in stifled murmurs swiftly down its rugged channel, deeply embowered in the overhanging forest beneath. The cool spray, stealing through the dark foliage of the lofty fir and spruce, whose roots were grasping the rock margin of the stream a hundred feet below, and whose wavy and attenuated tops now seemed almost within the grasp of the hand was visibly rising athwart the bright pencils of the struggling sunbeams in glittering vibrations to the heavens, and with grateful freshness came mingling on the senses with the balmy odour of the birch and gilead. While the seemingly low encircling firmament canopied their heads with that deep and rich cerulean so peculiar to the woody glens of the Green Mountains; and all around and above them was breathing a purity, and shedding a tranquil brightness beautifully emblematical, alike of the innocent and their sunny anticipations of the future.

Their enjoyment of these happy moments, however, was soon to be interrupted. Their attention was now arrested by the sounds of clattering hoofs in the road below; and turning their eyes to the spot from whence the noise proceeded they beheld a single horseman urging, with cruel applications of the whip, his faltering steed up the

hill towards the settlement. When nearly opposite, or rather under the spot where our lovers sat concealed from view by the boughs of their covert, the horse paused, staggered an instant, and fell with his rider to the ground. The poor animal after a few convulsive flounders, gasped feebly, and died on the spot. 'Damn the luck!' exclaimed the traveller, giving the dead carcass two or three spiteful kicks, 'damn the luck, the horse is dead! However,' he continued after a short pause occupied in taking a hasty glance up and down the road, and then over the precipice 'however, dead horses like dead men, will tell no tales—that is, if well buried. And here's grave enough down this bottomless gulf in all conscience, I should think—so now for a speedy funeral.' So saying and hastily unlacing a small valise, attached to the creeper of the somewhat tattered saddle, and filled apparently with clothing he grappled with main strength the body of the horse, and rolled it off the precipice, down the steep side of which it was heard heavily bounding through briars, bushes, and fallen tree tops, till it snuck with a faint splash in the water below. With another rapid glance thrown cautiously around him, he took his valise under his arm, and proceeded leisurely on towards the settlement.

'I am so glad he is gone, and without discovering us!' half audibly exclaimed May, the first to rouse from the mute surprise with which they had witnessed the whole transaction that so suddenly came and terminated, like the detached scene of some panoramic exhibition passing quickly before them, 'I can breathe again now. How strangely he talked to himself! Don't you think his conduct very singular?'

'Singular enough!' replied Ashley, 'but he really displayed considerable cool philosophy in the death and burial of his horse, as he termed tumbling him down the gulf.'

'Who and what can he be?'

'I am puzzled to conjecture. He may be a horse thief fearful of pursuit and detection, as his words, and his pains to get his dead horse out of sight, might seem to imply. But I am more inclined to believe him some watched smuggler, who was riding for life to meet and secrete some goods he may have coming in this direction.—These gentry often take this back road for their excursions, I am told.'

'It may be so, but I did not like his appearance any better than his actions; how suspicious he looked round to discover if any one was in sight. And how cruel to beat his horse so, and then kick the poor creature as he was dying!'

'Nor did I like the appearance of the fellow at all, and I confess I am not quite satisfied with my own solution of the affair; but I have no further leisure at present to bestow in useless conjectures—perhaps one or both of us may learn more hereafter that will throw light on the subject. And now, May, my dearest May, I must go, leaving you to return to the house alone.'

'O not yet.'

'Indeed and indeed I must linger no longer—see! the sun is nearly to the mountains. But once more, May, do you love me?'

'O, too much!'

'And will be true?'

'Forever!'

'Then, dearest girl, may the great one above us preserve you,—farewell, farewell!'

'Farewell!' sighed the tearful girl in accents soft and broken as the dying murmur of the distant cascade with which they mingled on the air. An instant, and Ashley stood in the road below giving the last lingering look of parting,—another, and he had disappeared from the sight of his sorrowful companion who slowly and pensively pursued her lonely way back to her now, more than ever, dreary and joyless home at the cottage we have already described.

The owner of this cottage, as the reader is already apprised, was a Mr. Martin, who with a few others had made, many years before, the first permanent settlement in the valley. They had purchased of one Colvin, a resident of the small village, to which allusion has before been made, situated some six or eight miles below, in the southerly corner of what had now become an organized town embracing the greatest part of this settlement within its boundaries. This man had formerly acted as agent to Harwood, the original proprietor of the whole valley, in disposing of the same lands to other which he subsequently sold to Martin and his companions as principal, the first occupants becoming sick of their bargains, or proving too poor and thriftless to pay for their farms, having abandoned and left them, before receiving any but defensible titles, with their few scanty improvements to more able and enterprising successors. About the time of this desertion of the first settlers, or rather squatters, perhaps, they might be termed, Colvin made a

journey to the sea port in New Hampshire where Harwood resided, and returned with the story that he had bought out the original proprietor, and was now sole owner of the valley. He then immediately set to work in, searching for purchasers; and by his unwearied exertions in this respect, and the inducements held out by the smallness of his now reduced prices, he soon succeeded in finding money purchasers for all the valley thought capable of improvement. This he had no sooner effected than he suddenly left that part of the country and was heard of no more.—From this time the settlement made rapid progress in improvement; and many of the families there now permanently located, among which was that of Martin, were, at the period of our tale, in comparatively easy and comfortable circumstances. Martin and his wife having no children of their own had taken May, the heroine of our story, when quite young, and adopted her as a daughter. Of the girl's parentage little or nothing had ever been ascertained. Her mother it appeared, had been taken ill on the road in a neighborhood on the borders of New Hampshire, and gained admittance into a private family to remain during her confinement. The man who attended her was not her husband, but, as he stated, a person employed to convey her to her friends in Vermont. And pretending to give her name and residence, and leaving a sum of money with the family amply sufficient for the present support of the mother and her expected infant, he immediately returned, for the purpose, as he avowed, of apprising her husband of her situation. The young woman, for so she seemed, in a few hours gave birth to a daughter; not however without the cost of her own life; for she was soon seized with fever and delirium, which in two or three days put a period to her existence. The infant was handed over to nurse to a married daughter of the family who resided with them, and who kindly received the little stranger to share with her own child that nourishment of which it has been deprived by the untimely death of its mother. After a few weeks had elapsed, no one in the meantime appearing to claim the child a letter was sent to the address of the supposed father, but without bringing from any one either a visit or an answer. Recourse was then had to the post-master of the town which had been given as the residence of the husband; and in consequence information was soon received that no person or family of that name and description had ever resided there. And as no other intelligence was ever after received on the subject, and neither any remarks of the deceased mother during the few hours of her rationality after her arrival, nor any thing found among her effects, affording the least clue for unravelling the mystery, the transaction was very naturally concluded to be one of those frauds often practiced to palm off as respectable some frail fair one and her illegitimate offspring, thus left unknown & unwound among entire strangers, was not, however, on that account neglected. Having been first whimsically termed the May flower, and finally May, from the circumstance of her having been born of the first day of the month of that name, she received the kindest attention from the family till nearly two years of age, when, becoming a pretty and promising child, she was taken by Martin, who then, and for some years afterwards, resided in that neighborhood from which he removed to his present residence in the valley. During the first years of May's adoption, and till the removal of Martin to Vermont, she was allowed, summer and winter, the advantages of an excellent common school, in which she was distinguished for uncommon proficiency for her age. And the taste for reading, which she here early acquired, was ever after maintained and improved by means of a choice selection of books, which Martin inherited from his father, and preserved out of respect to his memory rather than for any pleasure or profit they ever afforded him, or his still more unlettered companion. At this period also she was apparently much beloved by both Martin and his wife, and was uniformly treated by them with parental kindness and attention.—But as she approached to womanhood, and began to attract the esteem and admiration of all who became acquainted with her by her amiable disposition, her sprightliness and beauty, this former manifestation of kindness on the part of Martin and his wife began unequally to decline; and instead of receiving these demonstrations of esteem towards their deserving daughter with that pride and gratification which real parents would feel, they seemed to sicken at the praises she received, and view them with increasing uneasiness, giving vent to their feelings at last on the innocent and distressed cause of them in such bitter-ness of manner and expression as to render her

often extremely miserable. And this treatment was the more painful and perplexing as it arose from no avowed or reasonable causes, being founded probably in a sense of growing inferiority, and a petty jealousy at the preference with which she was personally regarded, and the greater respect which her intellectual superiority always commanded, leaving her the most hopeless of all tasks the endeavour to conciliate those whose conduct arises from motives they are ashamed to acknowledge, and whose dislike has no other origin than in the baseness of their own hearts.

A new era now occurred in the life of May—the era of her first love. William Ashley, an intelligent and enterprising young man, had been employed by a gentleman in Massachusetts owning wild lands in Vermont, to survey a tract lying west of the settlement. Making the valley his head quarters, and the house of Martin his home on his stated returns from his laborious duties in the woods, he became interested in May—loved her, and was soon loved in return with all the purity and fervor with which a young maiden yields up her virgin affections. The intimacy soon resulted in an engagement of marriage, and a determination on his part to purchase a farm and settle in the valley; to all of which Martin and his wife either seemed coldly indifferent, or manifested their dislike, though, as before intimated, they had the year previous used considerable management to induce May to consent to the hasty proposal of one a thousand times less worthy. Ashley having now contracted for a farm in pursuance of his resolution to settle in the place, his time had since been spent in alternately improving his new purchase, and resuming the avocation which had been the means of introducing him into the settlement.

Having now given the reader a brief sketch of the situation and characters of the leading personages of our little story, we will return to the thread of the narrative where we left it for this digression.

After parting from her lover, May lingered almost unconsciously some time in the vicinity of the romantic spot which had witnessed their adieu—now listlessly stooping to pluck some favorite flower that peeped from its covert beneath her devious footsteps, and now pausing to scratch the initials of the loved one's name on the bark of some solitary tree, while her mind was sweetly occupied with the pleasant reminiscences of the past, or indulging in those dreamy and bright imaginings of the future which love and hope are forever uniting to create in the bosoms of the youthful. And it was nearly sunset before she was aroused to the necessity of a speedy return to her home. Now quickening her steps, however, she soon arrived at the door, and was timidly entering under the expectation of receiving some ill-natured reprimand from Martin or his wife, as was their wont on her being long absent from her domestic duties, when with a feeling approaching thoughtfulness, she caught a glance of a third person in the room, whom she took to be some neighbor, setting with his back towards her, thinking that his presence would protect her from the anticipated rebuke, till the occasion should be forgotten. But this penalty she would have gladly suffered the next moment in exchange for the disagreeable surprise she encountered: For she had scarcely reached the interior of the room before the person turned round, and in him she at once recognized the man whose singular conduct she and Ashley had lately witnessed with so much surprise and suspicion. She instantly recoiled at the unexpected discovery, and stood a moment mute and abashed before the painful gaze of the stranger.

'Why! what ails the girl?' exclaimed Mrs. Martin. 'A body would think she was afraid of strangers.'

'Perhaps, wife, observed Martin with a malicious smile, 'perhaps May's walk has confused her with a little—these love-meetings and love-partings are terrible things to fluster one—ain't they May?'

'There!' rejoined the former in a tone of exulting glee, 'there! see how the girl blushes! I guess she thinks the gentleman may have seen her and her beau in their loving ramble across the pasture. May be, sir' she continued turning to the stranger, 'may be you witnessed the parting?'

'No, I saw no one after leaving the woods till I reached the house,' replied the man with evident uneasiness of manner—'Did you pass the way I came, Miss?'

'I have not been in the road, sir,' answered May, with as much calmness as she could command in her fresh alarm at the turn which the conversation now threatened to take, accompanied as the question was with a tone and look of suspicion for which she could readily account.—The enquiry, however, to her great relief was pursued no further, and the conversation being now directed to other and indifferent subjects, she retreated from the room to hide her blushes, and shed tears of vexation at the unfeeling and wanton manner in which the secrets of her heart had been exposed to a stranger—and that stranger, too, the very one of all others before whom she would have been most anxious to avoid such an exposure, coupled as it had been with her walk which had put her in possession of an un-

pleasant secret, as she feared it was, respecting him. How unlucky! she thought. Perhaps even now she had become the object of his suspicion and dislike. She had intended, before so unexpectedly encountering him on her return, to make known the transaction she had witnessed. But now should she do so, and the affair should be satisfactorily explained, she dreaded the ridicule which she probably must experience from all parties from having acted the spy and eavesdropper—and should it lead to the detection of some villany, perhaps she would have to be called into court as a witness—a consequence which she no less dreaded. She concluded therefore to keep the whole transaction carefully locked up as a secret in her own bosom.—Having come to this determination, and having succeeded by this time in allaying her disturbed feelings, and in assuming, in a good degree a calm demeanor, she rejoined the company, her repugnance to the stranger being mingled with some curiosity to learn more of his character, and see whether he would mention the circumstance which had so unfavorably impressed her and her lover, and if so, in what manner he would explain it. But in this she was disappointed, as not the least allusion was then, or ever afterwards made by him to the transaction. May soon perceived, however, that the stranger had already made rapid progress with his host and hostess toward gaining the footing of a familiar acquaintance; and it was with some surprise that she learned that he was to become for the present an inmate in the family. He had introduced himself, it appeared, by the name of Gow, stating that he was travelling with the view of purchasing lands; and having heard that Harwood settlement presented good inducements to purchasers, he had now accordingly paid it a visit for this purpose. This avowal had led to a proffer of assistance on the part of Martin to further the objects of the stranger, and soon to a compliance with the request of the latter to take up his abode in the family while he remained in the place.—Such was the ostensive object of the stranger's visit. The information May gathered from her mother in the absence of the gentlemen, who after supper had taken a long ramble across the farm in the twilight of the delicious evening. But the truth of the account which the man had thus given of himself she felt much disposed to discredit, for though the story was simple and reasonable enough in itself, she yet was wholly unable to reconcile it in her mind with what she had witnessed; and the more she reflected on the subject the stronger became her suspicions that there was something wrong in his character, and something which he was making an effort to conceal. During the course of the evening May found frequent opportunities for examining the personal appearance of Gow (for by that name we shall now call him) more closely than she had before the means of doing. Though young he was evidently considerably hackneyed in the ways of the world, and seemed well versed in the ordinary modes of flattery, and art of insinuating himself into the good graces of strangers. His exterior was good, and his demeanor, with ordinary observers, might have been prepossessing. But those who scrutinized him more closely might easily have detected a hollowness in his manner, which showed that the heart was taking but little part in the wheedling language of the tongue, and a sort of questionable expression in the glances of his restless eye, which like the savage foe in the woods, seemed to avoid open encounter, and to be continually skulking away and back, under the steady gaze of the beholder, as if guarding hidden motives with a constant apprehensiveness of their detection. Such at first were the impressions of May whose scrutiny instead of lessening had now increased the dislike she had conceived towards this person. Besides she was not altogether pleased with his manner toward herself. It was evident from his remarks that his enquiries concerning her had been already particular; and he seemed to address her with too much of the air of an old acquaintance. In short she felt, she scarce knew why, that he had some preconcerted object in view some way connected with herself. And she retired to rest that night with sensations of displeasure, and with a disquietude of feeling that she had never before experienced.

While such thoughts and undefined apprehensions were agitating the guileless bosom of May the disagreeable object of her reflections was also occupied in another apartment, to which he also had retired for the night, in writing a letter to an absent associate. For the benefit of the reader we take an author's privilege of looking over his shoulder.

'Well, Col, here I am, snug at Martin's, where I am to remain, at present, gentleman land-looker, as I call myself, till I put other business in train. I arrived this afternoon—sooner by some days than I expected, having come not slow most of the way, I assure you. The honest fact is, I bought a horse at the end of the first day's journey. 'Bought? you will say.—Yes of an old white cow I run afoul of in the stable.—'What a mad cap! you will again exclaim, 'thus to endanger the success of honest speculation.'—But the fact was Col, I was getting on too slow for my disposition, and—and I could not help it.—But the animal fell down and died just as I was coming into the settlement; and I rolled him off a ledge into the brook, where he went enjoy much more society, I am thinking, but the fishes and foxes till he is pretty well distributed. So no danger from that little frolic. Now for the girl—she is here, and no common affair neither I assure you! Well formed, handsome and knowing—Indeed I fear me she knows rather too much—at least that soul-rending sort of look of hers I plainly see will require a pretty thick mask. Besides Martin tells me she is engaged to a young farmer lately settled here, but who luckily started a journey for two months, the very day I arrived. So you see I have got to push matters rather briskly; and it will be a hard case if she don't find herself Mrs Gow before the fellow returns.—Lord! if she but knew her own secret, or mine, I might as well try to catch a lark in the sky by whistling.

As to the other part of our projected scheme, I am sure it will work well. Martin, whom, in my rapid way of doing things, I have sounded in all shapes, informs me that it is generally believed here that precious metals lie hid in these mountains; and I have already hinted my natural facilities in seeing in the magic-stone* (the wonders of which I find are still believed in, among them.) and in working the divining rods. Both of these marvelous implements I shall very naturally find in a day or two, probably; when I shall open the golden prospect of Martin's greedy eyes; and if it takes, as we may safely swear it will, I shall commence operations immediately. So, old boy you may come on with your traps as soon as you receive this; for I shall want you at all events—I will look out the old cave you described in the mountains, and have all things in readiness by the time you arrive.

Yours in rascality, truly,
Gow.

The next day was spent by Martin and his new acquaintance in the woods, the former acting as guide, as they rambled over the adjacent tracts of wild land in furtherance of the professed object of the latter's sojourn in the valley. The next, and the next, found them engaged in the same employment, to the great wonderment of May, who, knowing from the course taken by them, and from their returns to their daily meal at noon, that their excursions were always short and in the same direction, could not understand the use of so much exploring for a general examination of a few lots of land. She was also led to notice that a deep intimacy was growing between them; and she soon perceived that they were engaged in some secret purpose far different from that by which they pretended to be occupied. Gow affected, in the presence of the family, a knowing silence on the subject of their employment, and frequently pretended to check his friend as the latter began to throw out hints about new houses, improvements and purchases, implying a sudden change in his circumstances. All this, however, would have but little interested our heroine, and might have passed unheeded by her, had she not motives of her own for watching the conduct of Gow, whose character from the first she had so much reason to regard with suspicion, and whose increasing attentions to herself, which could now no longer be mistaken for ordinary courtesy, and which grew every day more and more annoying, furnished her additional reasons for wishing to fathom his designs.

But it is time, perhaps to apprise the reader more fully of the project in which Gow had enlisted Martin.

At the foot of a lofty mountain in the woods, about a mile northwesterly of Martin's House, a few days after Gow's arrival, those two personages might be seen seated on a fallen tree, the one with his face protruded into his hat which he held in his lap, seemingly gazing at something at the bottom, while the other was attentively listening to the remarks, which, at intervals, fell from the former. The dialogue which now ensued between them will sufficiently explain the nature of their employment.

'Are you quite certain, Mr Gow, that you have at last found the real genuine sort of stone, which you have this wonderful faculty of seeing things in?'

'O, quite sure. It is the same thin, oval, yellow, speckled kind of stone I used when I discovered the pot of money on Cape Cod, that they supposed Kidd buried there. How provoking, to get only a hundred dollars for that job, when I might have gone shares with the man who employed me had I chose it! But the fact was, Martin, I was not at that time entirely certain that I possessed this faculty to so great an extent as I afterwards found.'

'But what can be the reason that you cannot see in the stone at one time as well as another?'

'No one can exactly tell. A friend of mine who has the faculty, and is deeply skilled in these matters, supposes it is the devil that casts a mist before the stone to hide what otherwise might be discovered; and this may be the case, it is possible that it may have some connection with the

weather or state of the air. I had a beautiful clear view the first time I tried the stone after finding it this morning, but as my mind was running on scenes in my own country I made no discoveries of anything hereabouts, for the view had faded away before I could turn my thoughts to this spot. One must always keep his mind intently fixed on what he expects to discover, and wait with patience till the stone clears, and then if there is any thing to be found, he will be sure to see it, and all the objects by which it is surrounded.'

'How wonderful! By heavens, it I only had the faculty, I—'

'Hush—hush—Martin, it begins to clear. Does it? Mind and keep your thoughts on the mountain, Gow. Do you see anything yet?'

'Nothing distinctly yet—nothing but woods, and high hills with light misty clouds resting on them in broken masses, which seem to be dividing and slowly moving off! Stay! what peak is that rises in sight? Zounds! Martin, it clears every instant; and I can plainly distinguish the very mountain we are under. Look along the top of the ridge towards the north. New see if you discover a tall dry tree, pine I should think, standing just above a bare rock.'

'Yes, there is the very tree, as I live, and the rock too, by Jupiter! But do you see anything else?'

'Be easy a moment—I just caught a glimpse of something glimmering further down—but appears to be gone now. There! have it again right below the tree; but down, down to the very foot of the mountain. Now it comes!—brighter than ever! Something of a white shining appearance. Silver! silver! Martin, as true as I am a sinner—coined dollars of silver, deep underground!'

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

OXFORD DEMOCRAT.
PARIS, OCTOBER 2, 1833.

THE INDEPENDENT TREASURY.

We this week present our readers with an "Abstract of the Provisions of the Sub Treasury Bill," which will be found in another column. We have heard frequent enquiries for it, and are happy to be able to publish it at this time. We have preferred publishing an Abstract of the Bill to publishing the Bill itself, because it is more concise and generally intelligible, and cleared of many particulars not essential to the plan. We ask all who have hitherto been afraid of it, all whose whose imaginations have pictured it as laden with greater evils than the fabled Pandora box, to examine it with their own eyes and understandings, and decide for themselves whether it contains anything which can alarm a reasonable man; whether its provisions, or something like them, are not necessary for the security of the public revenue. We ask if it is not a plain, simple, intelligent method for the disposing of and safe keeping of the public funds. Is it not the method which every intelligent man of capital employs, as a matter of course, in the management of his own concerns, and is it not the method which has been employed from time immemorial for this purpose, by every Government on the face of the globe with the exception of our own.

The Independent Treasury Bill has been a bug-bear—a frightful monster—an abomination—a standing topic of complaint and scolding with the advocates of the special deposit system, ever since it was first recommended by the President. The system of special deposits in local Banks is preferred to the Independent Treasury system. Let us take a glance at some of their most prominent features, and the effects of the deposit system.

On the expiration of the charter of the U. S. Bank, the Government provided by law that the public money should be deposited, during the interval between the collection and disbursement, in certain State banks to be selected by the Secretary of the Treasury. This law was enforced with apparent advantages for some time, but the simultaneous failure of the banks in 1837 proved that the funds of the people were not safe in their hands. The President then recommended that these funds should be kept by official treasurers to be appointed for that purpose, and that monies due to the Government should be paid in the legal currency of the country, and not in the promissory notes of private corporations or individuals. The State Banks being chartered by the States and responsible only to them for their conduct, are, of course, institutions over which the General Government has no control. They may violate their charters in the most essential points—as they have done by refusing to redeem their notes—without being amenable to, or the General Government having any remedy or redress, and therefore, the public funds in the hands of agents over whom they have no control, and who are under no direct responsibility to them for their conduct, are not in safe hands and places the Government in an embarrassed situation and the public funds at the mercy of a soulless corporation.

Suppose, for instance, that an individual had been by circumstances to make trial of such a method, and had actually suffered the inconveniences that might naturally be expected to result from it; that the agent with whom he had placed his funds had refused to pay them over except in his own depreciated paper, and the individual had found himself without any adequate remedy; would he feel any disposition to try the experiment a second time? In our opinion, an individual, under such circumstances, who should without necessity entrust his property a second time to the same irresponsible agent, who had proved faithless once before, would be considered by his friends as incapable of managing his own affairs with common prudence and would be forthwith placed under guardianship.

The opposition, as an objection to the Independent Treasury, say that it will increase the power, patronage, and influence of the Executive part of the Government. Let us look at this objection, it is worth a moment's notice, were it only for its singularity, and

compare it with the special deposit system. When the Banks were entrusted with the public money, they were authorized by Government to discount freely upon it,—they were to consider it a part of their capital and to loan out twice the amount in their own notes. Now suppose that the President, the Secretary of the Treasury, or any other person connected with the Executive department of the Government, wished to make use of a portion of the public funds; would he find any difficulty in getting into his hands the sum which he wanted? Could he not by the aid of a confidential friend in any of the cities where there was a deposit Bank, intimate to the Bank that it would be agreeable in a certain quarter, if it would discount the notes of a certain person to a certain amount. And would a Bank which held the deposits at the discretion of the Executive, be likely to turn a deaf ear to such an overture; where neither the Executive officer in requesting, nor the Bank in giving such accommodation, violate any charter or law, or incur any legal responsibility. On the other side, in the plan contemplated in the Independent Treasury Bill, not a dollar can be drawn from the Treasury by any one without a regular warrant; nor can any Executive Agent or any other person get possession of a dollar in any indirect way, for any purpose whatever, without such a positive infliction of law by more than one individual as would subject the offender to an infamous punishment. Now which of the two systems will confer the most power on, and give the most influence to, the Executive;—and which is the best calculated to keep secure the people's money.

ABSTRACT OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE SUB-TREASURY BILL.

Section 1. Provides for vaults in the new Treasury Building erecting at Washington, and suitable rooms, which are declared to be the Treasury of the United States.

Sec. 2. The Mints in Philadelphia and New Orleans to be places of deposit, and the Treasurers thereof to be public receivers.

Sec. 3. Vaults and rooms to be prepared for places of deposits in the Custom Houses building in New York and Boston, to be under the care of the Public Receivers.

Sec. 4. Vaults and rooms for deposits to be prepared at Charleston, S. C. and St. Louis, Missouri.

Sec. 5. Four Public Receivers to be appointed by the President and Senate, for four years, one each in Boston, New York, Charleston and St. Louis.

Sec. 6. The Treasurer of the United States, the Treasurer of the Mints, all Collectors and Receivers of public monies, and Post Masters, are required to keep, without loaning or using, all the public money collected or in their custody, till drawn out or transferred. They are to perform all other fiscal duties required by act of Congress, or by legal regulation of the Treasury or other Departments, such as paying pensions, or making disbursements which the Heads of Departments are required by law to make.

Sec. 7. The treasurers and public receivers shall give bonds as required by the President and Secretary of the Treasury, and may be required from time to time as they may direct, to renew and strengthen such bonds.

Sec. 8. Requires the Secretary of the Treasury to cause the several depositories whose bonds are not provided for in the act, to execute new bonds, with proper sureties, and to renew and strengthen them as may be required. This applies to Collectors, Post Masters, and all Receivers other than the public Receivers.

Sec. 9. All public officers who receive money in the District of Columbia, shall as often as the Secretary of the Treasury prescribes, pay the same to the United States Treasurer. All such in Philadelphia, New Orleans, New York, Boston, Charleston and St. Louis, to pay over to the public Receiver at such place, such deposits to be made at least every month, and as much oftener as the Secretary may require.

Sec. 10. The Secretary of the Treasury may transfer the money in the hands of any public receiver or depository from one place of deposit to another, viz: to the Treasury of the United States, the Mints, or either of the places of deposit in the cities designated as such, at his discretion, and as the public service may require. For purpose of payments he may draw upon any such depository as may be most conducive to the public interests or the convenience of the public creditors.

Sec. 11. All monies deposited are to the credit of the United States Treasurer, subject to his draft for transfer or disbursement, as though the monies were actually in the United States Treasury. Each depository to make returns to the Treasury Department as often as required.

Sec. 12. When monies accumulate in the hands of any Depository except the United States Treasurer, the Treasurers of the Mints, and the four public Receivers, to an amount beyond his bonds, or which shall be considered unsafe, and it is not desirable to transfer it to any other depository, the Secretary may direct that such money shall be specially deposited in any bank in the State he may select, upon the following terms.

Sec. 13. To be strictly special deposits, the banks prohibited from using the money, by loans, discounts, or in any manner, and the Secretary of the Treasury may furnish such banks with safes for the public money, exclusively under the joint control of the banks and some officer of the government. Nothing but specie or notes, bills

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or paper directed by law to be received for public duties, shall be offered or received as such deposit by the bank. All such deposits to be put to the credit of the depository making them, but not to be withdrawn except on the express order of the Secretary of the Treasury. And no drafts or warrants for ordinary transfer or disbursement shall be made on any deposit bank. A commission of — per cent. as agreed on, shall be allowed the bank for all trouble and risk in keeping and repaying such special deposit.

Sec. 14. If no bank in the State will receive the deposits on these terms, the Secretary may select a bank in a neighboring State, and if none such, convenient, can be found, the Secretary may transfer the money to the United States Treasury or either of the mints or public receivers, as shall be most convenient to the public service for disbursements.

Sec. 15. The Secretary is authorized to appoint special Agents, as occasion may require, with reasonable compensation, to be fixed at the time of their appointment, to examine the books, accounts and concerns of the several depositories constituted by this act, such examination to be made at least annually whenever the sum on hand usually exceeds three-fourths of the office's bond. The agents shall report the manner of conducting the business, in order to secure safety and uniformity.

[The Bill in the House makes the District Attorneys and Marshals the special Agents without compensation.]

Sec. 16. Makes each Naval Officer and Surveyor a check upon the Receiver or Collector, each Register of a Land Office a check on the Receiver, and the Director of the Mints on the Treasurer of such Mint. They shall examine and report quarterly or oftener if required, to the Treasury Department.

Sec. 17. Allows necessary additional expenses for Clerks, chests and vaults, in keeping and disbursing the money, to be first expressly authorized by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Sec. 18. The Secretary of the Treasury shall withdraw the balances in the hands of the present depositories, as soon as may be, and transfer them to the depositories erected by this act.

Sec. 19. All Marshals, District Attorneys and others who have public money to pay to the United States, and all patentees who wish to pay for patents to be issued, may pay the United States Treasurer, to the Mints or to either of the public receivers, or such other depository as to the Secretary may designate in other places, to receive such payments and give certificates of deposit.

Sec. 20. All officers under this act, to keep entry of the amount and kind of money received and of each payment and transfer. And if any such officer shall "convert to his own use in any way whatever, or shall use by way of investment in any kind of property or merchandise, or shall loan with or without interest, any portion of the public money," every such act shall be an embezzlement, and a high misdemeanor, on conviction of which in any Court of the U. S. the offender shall be sentenced to imprisonment not less than two or more than five years, and to a fine equal to the sum embezzled.

Sec. 21. Provides that the Secretary might invest the surplus over four millions, in the United States, in State Stocks, and sell the same when the surplus fell short of four millions. [This section was unanimously stricken out in the Senate.]

Sec. 22. Until the places of public deposite are provided, the Secretary shall procure suitable rooms at the respective places, and contract with Banks, Corporations or individuals for the use of vaults or safes, at the expense of the United States.

Secs 23 and 24—provided that in 1839 the public dues may all be received in the notes of specie paying banks. In 1840 one sixth part to be paid in the legal currency of the United States and the other five sixths in notes of specie paying banks in 1841, four sixths in such notes, in 1842 one half in such notes, in 1843 two sixths, and in 1844 all payments to be made in gold and silver coin only, or such notes, bills, or paper issued under authority of the United States as may be directed to be received by law. Any officer who shall neglect, evade or violate this provision, shall be dismissed and forfeit the compensation then due.

Sec. 25. The Secretary shall, by published regulations, enforce the speedy presentation of all government drafts at the place where payable, and prescribe the time within which all drafts from Washington on the depositories shall be presented, and in default of presentation to direct any other mode and place of payment.

Sec. 26. The Public Receiver in New York shall be paid a salary in full of \$3000, in Boston, Charleston, and St. Louis \$2500, and not permitted to receive any other emolument for any official service, on pain of fine and imprisonment for misdemeanor.

Sec. 27. The Treasurer of the United States is to receive at the Treasury, and such other points as he may designate, payments in advance for public lands, such payments, in all cases to be evidenced by the receipt of the Treasurer of the United States, and such receipts shall be

current at all the Land Offices as cash at any public or private sale of lands.

Sec. 28. Appropriates — dollars for erecting depositories at Charleston and St. Louis.

Sec. 29. Appropriates a sufficient sum of money for the payment of the expenses authorized by the act.

FIRE IN DIXFIELD VILLAGE.

On Saturday night last was consumed by fire, the Fulling Mill and Carding Machines situated in Dixfield Village, and owned by Eustace, Austin, and Griffith, together with all the cloth, wool, &c. left in the Machines. The fire was discovered about eleven o'clock, bursting out through the sides and roof of the buildings. How the fire took its left wholly to conjecture. Capt. Harris, who had hired the Machines and was carrying them on, left them last, it being about 9 o'clock in the evening. The fire was doubtless the result of accident. The whole loss is estimated at about two thousand dollars. The Grist Mill lately erected in that place was considerably injured, and must have been totally consumed had it not been for the extraordinary efforts of those who assisted on the occasion. The Machines stood by the side of the Grist Mill, and lapped on ten feet and within one or two feet of the Mill. The damage to the Grist Mill is thought to be not more than one hundred dollars.

New Bank.—The Whigs have pretty much come to the conclusion that Nick Biddle's great Regulator, wants regulating; they begin to think that it is a great humbug, and that something else in the shape of a Bank ought to be got up in the room of it. They are said to have in contemplation the plan of building up a lot of little satellites in various parts of the country, of about 60 horse power each. They are to regulate each other, by a self-enquiring committee, appointed by themselves, and subject to the will of themselves, and all for the good of the people.—*Boston Republic.*

The Mechanics' and Traders' Bank, of Cincinnati, has burst its boiler, owing to the great pressure it has sustained. The President and Cashier were absent, and depositors were calling in vain for their funds. O, beautiful currency, these rags, for the hard-working yeomanry of America. Yet Webster and Clay, says it is a good currency, "and surely they are honorable men—so are they (Whigs), all, all honorable men" [Boston Republic.]

The Governor of Massachusetts has appointed the 11th of November (the day of the annual election in that State) as the time for filling the vacancy in the Sixth Congressional District, occasioned by the recent decease of Mr Alvord.

From the Boston Republic.

WHO WANTS A NATIONAL BANK.

The farmer says he don't want a National Bank. He can work his farm now, as he always has done, without a National or any other bank. He can't for the life of him see what benefit a bank is to him. It won't cause the rain to descend, nor the sun to shine, nor the earth to yield its fruits.

What do I want of a National Bank, says the mechanic. It won't lay bricks—it won't sharpen my tools, nor plain boards, or hew timber. It won't wax my thread, nor make a boot. It won't make a horse shoe—nor drive a nail. It won't tan hides—it won't set types. It won't do any thing that's good.

The trader, too, says, a National Bank is of no service to him.

I don't want a National Bank says the laboring man. It won't make the handcart go—nor the sled to run. It won't lift, hoist, dig—saw nor carry. You can't make me believe, says he, that I want such a thing.

The truckman says, I don't want a bank. It won't load my truck nor draw it. I would rather have a good horse than a Bank.

The honest lawyer too, says he don't want a National bank. It won't plead a case, nor win one; and as to the fee, he would rather have it in Uncle Sam's white and yellow boys.

The doctor too, says a bank won't make phisic work—won't pull teeth, nor bleed a patient.

The clergyman laughs at the idea of a National Bank. It won't preach sermons—nor convert sinners. On the contrary it rather hardens them, and therefore, says the clergyman I don't want a bank.

Well then, if neither the farmer, mechanic, trader, laborer, truckman, lawyer, doctor, and clergyman want a National Bank, who does?—Ay, that's the question, who does? Answer.—The Whigs. The hard hearted, reckless speculator. The men who worship mammon as their deity day and night. These are the men who want a National Bank. It is not the people who want a Monster Bank. It is the ambitious, soulless leaders of the Federal party, Webster, Clay and others.

The federalists of Nashville, Tenn., have sent a committee to Kentucky to invite Mr Clay to visit that city. They passed through Louisville on the 20th ult, on their way to Ashland, Mr Clay's seat. The Louisville Advertiser says:—

"Some of those who pretend to know why the whigs of Tennessee consider the mission of the committee very interesting, express the opinion that communications have been received by Mr Bell or Judge White, or both, from Philadelphia, urging them to draw Mr Clay into Tennessee, and there prevail on him to withdraw from the canvass for the Presidency."

Albert G. Hays, is the Democratic candidate for Governor of Kentucky, in place of Gov. Clark, lately deceased.

The Kidnapped Boy—whose rescue from slavery we announced on Saturday—has reached this city, on his way to his home at Worcester. He is a bright, intelligent little fellow, about eight years of age, and the son of a very respectable mechanic at Worcester. The gentleman who went to Virginia in search of him is a Mr. Rice; he deserves much credit for the skill and promptitude with which he effected his benevolent object. Shearer, the kidnapper, was left in jail at Fredericksburg, awaiting a requisition from the Governor of Massachusetts. He had two or three accomplices, and there is a strong reason to believe, from what came out on the examination, that three or four other colored boys have been kidnapped and sold by him and his confederates. Sydney, the boy now rescued, was sold by Shearer for four hundred and fifty dollars.—*N. Y. Com. Advertiser.*

Lower Canada.—The Montreal Herald of Friday informs us that on Thursday fifty-eight of the Canadians under the sentence of death, were shipped on board the steamer British America, to be re-shipped on board the transport Buffalo, in which they were transported to Botany Bay for life. They were chained in couples, and escorted to the steamer by a guard of the 24th regiment. The editor was told that the parting scene between the convicts and their relations was distressing in the extreme, and caused tears to flow from all eyes which witnessed it.—*Boston Post.*

There have been several very heavy failures in Cincinnati, recently, among the merchants who have embarked heavily in Flour and Pork speculations. Well, well, it is no sin now-a-days for wealthy companies to fail and cheat half of the people out of their fortunes, but if a poor "rascal" gets in debt and can't pay—the Lord help him, he must be hunted down like a mad dog. Truly, poverty is a grievous sin.—*Republic.*

Abominable.—An exchange says, that thirty-six vessels have been fitted out at Rio Janeiro as slave ships. In the month of January last, one thousand and forty-two slaves were brought into the port of Rio Janeiro, and in the month of February, one thousand six hundred and thirty-seven slaves in ten ships. It was estimated that the destruction of life, owing to the strict precautions used against capture, is seldom less than one half. Where are the numerous missionaries sent out to enlighten mankind, and above all, where are all our American vessels that could be a terror to all evil doers?—*Republic.*

Anecdote.—The interest in the Fair seems unabated, and the visitors yesterday were as numerous, apparently, as on any previous day. All seem well pleased, and there is no a little fun and frolic occasionally going on. The best thing we have heard yet is the following. On Monday afternoon a gentleman from the West, of very remarkable height, while wandering about the rooms, noticed a boy of damsels and their attendant maids, who were observing him very attentively. Presently, one of the young men came up and accosted him: "Pray Sir, forgive my apparent rudeness, but those young ladies are very desirous of knowing you exact height." The gentleman addressed advanced to the young ladies, and with great courtesy replied, "I am extremely sorry ladies that I cannot gratify your curiosity, but the Directors have not labelled me yet."—*Daily Advertiser.*

A great bargain.—At an auction sale at Brooklyn, N. Y., last week, a wash-hand stand was knocked down at eighteen shillings. The buyer, on examining his purchase, found in a drawer, among a parcel of rubbish, a roll of bank notes amounting to \$5,000 and doubloons worth \$1,000 more. The Surrogate took possession of the money in behalf of the estate to which the stand belongs, but the finder intends to test his claims to the money, says the N. Y. Express.

One of the Beauties of the Law.—We yesterday recorded the death of Mr. Burnell, of Northampton, Mass., the second who died of the accident caused by the want of brakemen on the Camden and Amboy rail road. On opening him, it was found that a bone was broken internally, in the region of the thighs. Surgical aid, we understand, had the real nature of the case been known, would have been unavailing. The friends of Mr. Burnell, we are told, consulted the lawyers upon the subject of a legal remedy, but they are informed, it is so stated, that as Mr. B. has no family, and is of age, there is no remedy, whereas if he had lived, the remedy was good for damages. Thus you may kill a man and the law is silent, but if you maim him, look out.—*N. Y. Express.*

A well-matched couple.—A gentleman and his wife, Mr and Mrs G—, were weighed at the Fair, the other day, in one of Mr. Fairbanks's balances, and the weight of the former was found to be two hundred and eighty-nine pounds, and his wife's two hundred and five.—*Post.*

The Democratic Almanac.—A new edition of this publication has just been issued, giving the results of the recent elections in Tennessee, Indiana, &c. It is for sale at Littlefield's, 123 Washington street. Every democrat should have a copy.—*Boston Post.*

From the Charleston Patriot.
From Florida.—By the schr. Stephen & Francis, Capt. Magee, Jr. arrived yesterday from St. Augustine, we have received the "News" of the 22d inst. from which we copy the following:
Indian News.—The baggage train, between Wacassassa and Fort Panning, with an escort of seven men, was attacked by ten Indians;—loss 1 white killed, 3 wounded; 2 horses, 4 mules killed, and wagon burned.

We find the following paragraph in a Western paper—of course it is all true:

"Flash in the pan."—A man named Flash in a drunken fit, lately fell into a large kettle where fish were frying. It was then "out of the frying pan into the fire," for, extricating himself from the kettle, he pitched in among the live coals, and was nearly burnt to a cinder.

Death of the Hon. James C. Alvord.—Letters were received in this city on Sunday, from Greenfield, announcing the death of the Hon. James C. Alvord, of that town, the member elect to the next Congress.—*Boston Post.*

An Impudent Trick. The Indianapolis Journal tells the following story, which reveals the most impudent trick that has lately come to light:—"Some fellow, who wished to have Mr Buskirk, the Postmaster at Bloomington, in this State, removed from office, forged a letter in the name of Mr B. to the Postmaster General resigning the office and recommending George A. Johnson, Esq, as a suitable person to fill the vacancy. Of course, Mr Johnson was no less surprised at receiving the appointment than was Mr Buskirk at being superseded, without being conscious of any fault, or that one had been alleged against him. He immediately wrote to the department, demanding the cause of his removal. He received for answer, that it was in accordance with his own request. Mr Buskirk has as yet been unable to find out the forger. He offers \$100 reward for his detection.

From Texas. We are indebted to the officers of the steam packet Columbia, Captain Windle, 36 hours from Galveston, for papers of that place and Houston of late dates.

The Galveston Civilian of Sept. 13 says:—Several hundred men will be kept regularly in the field, until all apprehensions of further trouble from the Indians have subsided. Galveston has established quarantine regulations.

From the Houston Telegraph, Sept. 11, we extract the following:

GEN. ANAYA. This gentleman has paid a visit to Texas, for the purpose of negotiating with this government for aid, in establishing a new republic out of a portion of the Eastern States of Mexico, and opposing the power of the General Government. He was one of the first heroes of the revolution of Mexico, for her independence. He was a particular friend of General Jackson in Louisiana, in 1814, and fought at his side in the battles of the 23d and 28th December, and 8th January.

The Houston Telegraph states that Gen. Sam. Houston has been elected to Congress from St. Augustine.

The Telegraph states that flour is selling at from 50 to 60 dollars per barrel. [N. O. Bulletin Sept. 18th.]

We learn, says the Worcester Spy, that a young man named Lewis Brigham, in Northborough, about ten days since, in digging for woodhucks, unearthed a metal kettle containing near three pecks by measure, of old coin, of various denominations, about one-third of which was gold and the remainder silver. The vessel was so completely decomposed as to be of no strength, and barely to retain its form. We do not understand whether the exact amount of the money has been ascertained or not.

A fearful murder. The Philadelphia papers give the particulars of a horrid and unnatural murder, committed in that city on Saturday last. The daughter of a Mr Wood, a confectioner of some notoriety, was shot through the head by her father, who was offended with her because she had married a Mr Peak was sitting in the room with her father, about ten o'clock, on Saturday morning, when he walked up to her, drew a pistol from his bosom, placed it almost against her forehead, and shot her entirely through the brain. Wood was arrested in a few minutes after he had perpetrated the horrible deed, and he avowed that he had done it. The affair had caused much excitement in Philadelphia.

Virginia will raise more tobacco this year than any State in the Union, and it is of great value. The crop of 1838 amounted only to 26,000 hogsheds—this year it is estimated at 45,000 hogsheds. The entire tobacco crop of Virginia, Kentucky, Maryland and Ohio, for this year, is estimated 115,000 hogsheds.—Last year it was only 72,000 hogsheds.

Account from Africa inform us of the termination of the war which has been waged between the Libarians and the natives of Little Bassa, the former having gained a complete victory.—The leaders of the conquered pledged themselves to aid and abet the slave trade no more in any manner whatever, either directly or indirectly. The authorities and citizens of Liberia appear to have acted in this business with a great deal of bravery and energy.

Two slaves were captured about the middle of August, by H. B. M. schooner Dolphin.

The Newburyport Herald says this—it is good:—

"A man's own good breeding is the best security against others people's ill manners."

Lust of Gain.—The New Orleans Courier relates the Germans and Swiss, from Hvre, who were landed in New Orleans last week, when warned of the danger of coming into the city, the emigrants declared they had been assured in France that laboring men might here earn three dollars per diem; that they had crossed the Atlantic to make money and into New Orleans they would enter at all hazards. Probably, most of them had n't time to earn money enough to buy a coffin before they required one.

One of the greatest curiosities in the country is a living *Flamingo*, at Alexandria. It is a tall long-legged bird, six feet high, and with plumage red as blood. They are found in the Bahamas, &c.

It is stated that there are about 40 cases under the fifteen gallon law, now on the docket of the Municipal Court of Boston.

To New England Editors and Publishers.—The publishers of the Boston Almanac propose to furnish for 1840, a complete list of all newspapers, magazines, etc. printed and published in New England. In order to get the desired information, he requests the editors or publishers to send him one number of each of their respective publications, for which he will send them in return, (when published) a copy of the Boston Almanac, for 1840.

Will editors in the New England states please give this an insertion, and send a copy of their publication to S. N. Dickenson, 52 Washington street, Boston?

The Young Men's County Lyceum.

Will meet at Norway Village on Wednesday the 16th inst. at 6 o'clock P. M.

A Disquisition by Moses B. Herring.
Question for Discussion.—"Is it expedient for our Legislature to enact a Penal Law to prohibit the sale of intoxicating Liquors?"

DISPUTANTS.

Jesse How, L. P. Rand, Aff. William K. Kimball, Geo. F. Emery, Neg.

MARRIED.

In Welchville, Oxford, by Rev. Isaac Carlton, Mr. Daniel Hackett of Oxford, to Miss Sarah Ann Core of Pennington New Jersey.

DIED.

In this town Sept. 25th Dea. Luke Chase aged 58.

NEW GRIST MILL.

THE subscriber respectfully gives notice to the public that he has completed his new Grist Mill in Oxford, situated in the Village at Craigie's Mills, and that he is now ready to accommodate all who will favor him with their custom.

The above Mill has been constructed at an expense of about \$4,500,—is built of the best materials, all entirely new,—has four runs of Stones, one of which is the *Imported Burr*—has three Bolts of the best texture and quality, and a Corn Cracker to grind Corn and Cobs together. Particular attention will be paid to the manufacturing of Flour, which the subscriber will warrant (from good wheat) to be equal to the best Genesee. The services of an experienced and faithful Miller have been secured, who will spare no pains to accommodate all customers with the greatest possible despatch.

The public are respectfully invited to call and examine for themselves, and we will guarantee they shall find there is "no mistake."

DENNIS HAYES.

Oxford, Sept. 25th, 1839.

FREEDOM.

THIS may certify that I have this day given to my son, Cornelius Peterson, a minor, his time, with power to act and trade for himself until he shall be twenty-one years of age. I shall claim none of his earnings nor pay any debts of his contracting after this date.

BENJAMIN PETERSON.

Paris, October 1, 1839.

Fur Caps, Collars, Boas, Neck Ties, &c. &c.

JUST rec'd and for sale by the subscriber.

W. E. GOODNOW.

Norway, Sept. 30, 1839.

Oven, Ash, & Boiler Mouths,

IRON, Sheet Iron, &c. constantly on hand and for sale by the subscriber.

W. E. GOODNOW.

Sept. 30, 1839.

LIST OF LETTERS

REMAINING IN THE POST OFFICE AT PARIS, ME. OCT. 1, 1839.

BOWKER JAMES—Briggs Alanson—Briggs James—Besse Sylvester—Blaisdell Tracy—Cummings Erasmus—Dwinel Orrin—Farum Simon—Frost Isaac Jr.—Goodnow R. K. 2—Hale Sumner—Hall Isaiah—Hollen Samuel—Jones Charles M.—Knight Peter—Kimball Wm. K.—Porter Eliza—Porter John 2—Perry Asa—Perry James—Ramsdell Job—Stearns Marshall—Stowell David P.—Sargent Francis—Thayer Joel B.—Wescott Frederic—Winslow Luther P. G. W. MILLETT, P. M.

STOVES, STOVES.

COOKING STOVES, Box Stoves, Fire Frames, Stove Tunnels, &c. for sale by the subscriber at fair prices for Cash or Produce.

W. E. GOODNOW.

Sept. 30, 1839.

Money! Money!!

ALL Notes and accounts of three months standing (private contracts excepted) must be settled forthwith.

W. E. GOODNOW.

Sept. 30, 1839.

NOTICE.

PUBLIC notice is hereby given that the Post Office at South Paris will be open all business days from 7 till 12 o'clock A. M., and from 1 till 7 o'clock P. M., until further arrangement.

DAVID JORDAN, P. M.

South Paris, Sept. 9, 1839.

ATTENTION THE WHOLE.

MILITARY COMPANIES in want of Brass or other Instruments can be supplied by the subscriber at his Store.

W. E. GOODNOW.

Sept. 16, 1839.

